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Dockets Management Branch
FDA
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1601
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA:

I am writing today to express my strong objection to costly and unnecessary rules which you have been asked to consider by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

As one who has worked in the oyster industry for many years and who understands the difficulties faced by farmers, processors and others who rely on shellfish, I can tell you first-hand of the economic damage these proposed rules will inflict upon us.

Most people in our industry own small operations with little financial stability and few cash reserves. Forcing us to comply with mandatory treatment will drive many out of the business altogether and greatly reduce our limited profits even further. Simply stated, we can't afford the costly equipment and cannot absorb the lower consumer demand which will result from treated oysters.

Consumers should have a choice between treated oysters and fresh oysters. The small number of people who may be at risk should heed the ample health warnings available where fresh oysters are sold and assume their own level of personal responsibility.

I urge FDA to reject these crippling rules and to allow other appropriate independent state and national bodies such as ISSC to continue to have jurisdiction and oversight activities as they have in the past.

Thank you,

Harold C. Gourgues, Jr.
Harold C. Gourgues, Jr.
Owner

98P-0504

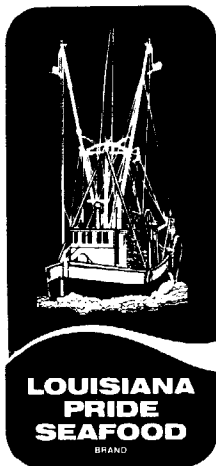
LOUISIANA PRIDE SEAFOOD, INC.

4418 Downman Rd. ■ New Orleans, LA 70126 ■ (504) 245-1661 ■ (504) 241-2977 FAX

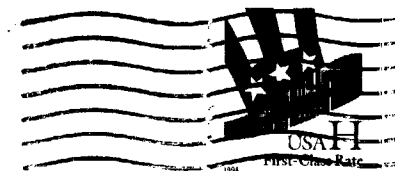
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